

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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/038 W

-----058315 100944Z /10

O 100921Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO USDA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1480
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (BERGLAND, BOB), UR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY BERGLAND'S MOSCOW ARRIVAL STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REMARKS MADE BY SECRETARY OF
AGRICULTURE BOB BERGLAND UPON ARRIVAL IN MOSCOW MAY 9 AT
APPROXIMATELY 18:15 HOURS LOCAL TIME. FYI, PRESENT AT
SHEREMET'YEVO AIRPORT VIP RECEPTION LOUNGE WERE LOCAL
CORRESPONDENTS OF AP, UPI AND CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

-- (BEGIN TEXT)

-- QUESTION: WE WERE WONDERING IF YOU COULD EXPLAIN A
LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT.

-- SECRETARY BERGLAND: WELL, I'M HERE IN THE SOVIET
UNION FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE. I'M HERE AS A FAR-
MER, AND TO TALK WITH THE LEADERS OF SOVIET AGRICULTURE
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ABOUT COMMON PROBLEMS. OVER THE YEARS THE SOVIET UNION
AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE EXCHANGED ABOUT NINETY TEAMS
TRAINED IN THE TECHNICAL SIDE OF AGRICULTURE. THESE EX-
CHANGES HAVE BEEN VERY USEFUL TO THE PEOPLE IN THE
UNITED STATES AND IN THE SOVIET UNION, AND WE'RE GOING TO
EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING ON THIS VERY FINE
RELATIONSHIP.

-- QUESTION: WE HEAR THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME CONSIDERATION OF CREDITS FOR GRAIN SALES. IS THIS GOING TO BE COMING UP AS FAR AS YOU KNOW?

-- ANSWER: NOT THAT I'M AWARE OF, NO. WE OF COURSE WILL BE TALKING WITH OUR FRIENDS IN THE SOVIET UNION ABOUT OUR AGRICULTURAL RELATIONSHIP, NOT ONLY IN THE AREA OF RESEARCH BUT LOOKING AHEAD AS TO WHAT THE GLOBAL NEEDS MIGHT BE. THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE THE WORLD'S TWO LEADING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND THE WORLD WILL DEPEND MORE HEAVILY ON OUR NATIONS AS TIME GOES ON, AND WE'RE GOING TO DISCUSS OUR ROLES IN THIS WORLD AND DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING TRADE IN AN AGRICULTURAL SENSE. THERE'S MUCH ABOUT SOVIET AGRICULTURE FROM WHICH WE CAN LEARN - I'M FROM A REGION IN MINNESOTA THAT GROWS SUNFLOWERS AND ALL OF THE SUNFLOWER RESEARCH THAT WE'VE UTILIZED HAS BEEN DEVELOPED IN THE SOVIET UNION, AND THERE ARE THINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED IN THE UNITED STATES THAT ARE NOW APPLIED IN THE SOVIET UNION. SO TOGETHER WE HOPE TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AND THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE THE BENEFACTOR.

-- QUESTION: WILL THE QUESTION OF TRANSPORTING AMERICAN GRAIN IN AMERICAN SHIPS BE BROUGHT UP DURING THE VISIT HERE?

-- ANSWER: IT MAY. I'M NOT AWARE OF ANYTHING OF THAT NATURE ON THE AGENDA BUT IT MAY COME UP. OF COURSE, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN LAWS RATHER LIMIT THE KINDS OF THINGS WE CAN DO, PARTICULARLY WHEN THERE'S ANY SORT OF AMERICAN INCENTIVES INVOLVED. ON PURE COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS, OF COURSE, IT'S ANOTHER MATTER.

-- QUESTION: MR. SECRETARY, THE ARGUMENT LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME WAS THAT ONLY TWENTY-TWO PERCENT OF AMERICAN GRAIN SHIPPED TO THE SOVIET UNION CAME ON AMERICAN SHIPS, WHEREAS THE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR THIRTY-THREE PERCENT. NOW, WE'RE WONDERING IF THAT ISSUE HAS BEEN RESOLVED YET IN THE UNITED STATES AND EXACTLY HOW SIGNIFICANTLY IT PLAYS A ROLE IN WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE NOW.

ANSWER: WELL, IT WILL BE DISCUSSED I SUPPOSE, BUT IT'S NOT WHAT WE WOULD REGARD AS AN OVERRIDING ISSUE. OUR MAJOR INTEREST IN THE SOVIETS IS IN THE FUTURE, AS TO THE KIND OF MARKET WE MIGHT EXPECT HERE. WE IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAVE ADOPTED A WHOLE RANGE OF NEW INITIATIVES IN AGRICULTURE. WE ARE UNWILLING TO LEAVE THINGS TO CHANCE. WE KNOW THAT WEATHER CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE SOVIET UNION, IN THE UNITED STATES, AND IN OTHER MAJOR GRAIN-PRODUCING REGIONS HAVE MORE TO DO WITH GRAIN SUPPLY THAN ALL GOVERNMENT POLICIES COMBINED. -WNED, FARMER-OWNED GRAIN RESERVE SO THAT WHEN WE HAVE GOOD

CROPS AND GOOD WEATHER IN THE UNITED STATES WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO PUT THAT RESERVE ASIDE AND WHEN THE BAD WEATHER COMES WE'LL BE ABLE TO FULFILL THOSE DEMANDS. DURING THE EARLIER PART OF THE 1970'S, WITHIN ONE THIRTY-MONTH PERIOD WE WENT FROM HEAVY SUBSIDIES ON EXPORTED GRAINS TO AN OUTRIGHT EMBARGO. THAT KIND OF PANIC CANNOT BE TOLERATED, AND INDEED OUR NEW GRAIN RESERVE PROGRAM WILL BE ABLE TO ASSURE OUR GOOD CUSTOMERS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND ELSEWHERE THAT WE CAN BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED AS A RELI-

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ABLE SUPPLIER. WE NEED TO KNOW, HOWEVER, WHAT THOSE DEMANDS MAY BE IN THE LONG RUN - NOT IN SPECIFIC TERMS BUT IN A GENERAL WAY. AT THE MOMENT, WE HAVE MORE THAN TEN MILLION HECTARES OF AMERICAN CROPLAND TAKEN OUT OF PRODUCTION THIS YEAR BECAUSE THERE SIMPLY DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE A NEED FOR IT. NOW, NEXT YEAR MAY BE A DIFFERENT MATTER AND SO WE DO NEED THE BEST ESTIMATES THAT ONE CAN GET, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT WEATHER (WHICH) IS A VERY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ALL OF THE RAIN-FED GRAIN-PRODUCING REGIONS OF THE WORLD.

-- (END TEXT). TOON

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